



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

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HOGSETT ANNOUNCES TEN YEAR SENTENCE FOR WASHINGTON METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKER

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS – Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today that John M. Gootee, age 39, of Washington, was sentenced to 120 months in prison yesterday by U.S. District Judge Jane E. Magnus-Stinson following his guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

“This investigation and prosecution was a true team effort,” said Hogsett. “Working with federal agents and local law enforcement, we have wiped out a dangerous criminal organization in this community. Judge Magnus-Stinson’s sentencing decision ensures that Mr. Gootee won’t walk the streets of Washington for a long, long time.”

Gootee served as a drug courier and distributor for a Washington-area methamphetamine and marijuana trafficking operation allegedly led by Jose Vasquez-Silva. The organization operated from approximately August 2009 through December 9, 2010 and distributed approximately fifteen pounds of methamphetamine per month in Daviess and Knox counties.

Federal agencies that assisted in this investigation included the Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Marshal’s Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. State and local agencies involved included the Indiana State Police, as well as the Vincennes Police Department, Washington Police Department, Daviess County Sheriff’s Department, Vigo County Sheriff’s Department, and Gibson County Sheriff’s Department.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Magnus-Stinson also imposed five years supervised release following Gootee’s release from prison. During the period of supervised release, Gootee must undergo drug testing. In addition, Gootee was fined in the amount of \$500.

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